

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 13115 221202Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-13 EUR-25 ACDA-19 OMB-01

DPW-01 RSR-01 /148 W

----- 020197

O R 221055Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5912

INFO USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 13115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER THANOM ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN INFORMAL USIS
TRANSLATION OF A THANOM PRESS CONFERENCE OF AUG 22. BEGIN
EXCERPTS

NISSAI: KHUN BANYAT OF THE BANGKOK POST ASKS
WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE
WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND
AND WHEN RESULTS WILL BE KNOWN? WILL AMERICAN MILITARY
FORCES BE COMPLETELY OR ONLY PARTLY WITHDRAWN?

THANOM: THAI AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS SHOULD START
NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF
AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND THIS FRIDAY. LT.
GEN. KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED HEAD
OF THE THAI DELEGATION, HAS GONE TO THE PROVINCES AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 13115 221202Z

WILL RETURN HERE THIS AFTERNOON AND THAT IS WHY I

UNDERSTAND THAT TALKS WILL MOST PROBABLY BE STARTED ON FRIDAY. BOTH SIDES WILL CONSIDER PLANS TO REDUCE AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES BY GRADUAL STEPS, TAKING UP FOR CONSIDERATION THEIR NECESSITY FOR THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THIS REGION ALSO, AS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON AUGUST 17, AFTER THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CAME AND HELD A MEETING WITH ME.

NISSAI: KHUN SUPANG OF VOA.

REPORTER: NOW THAT AUGUST 15 HAS BEEN REACHED AND IS PAST, WILL ANY B-52S BE WITHDRAWN?

THANOM: NOT YET.

REPORTER: WILL THEIR WITHDRAWAL BE PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL BE HELD?

THANOM: YES. THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STATIONED EVERYWHERE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THEY WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN AT ONCE AND FROM THE START, BUT THEY WILL BE WITHDRAWN BY GRADUAL STAGES. WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN THIS REGION AND THE SECURITY OF THAILAND ALSO.

REPORTER: WHAT IS THE REAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN STATIONED IN THAILAND NOW?

THANOM: ABOUT 45,000 MEN.

REPORTER: WHAT MILITARY UNITS WILL BE WITHDRAWN AS THE FIRST STEP?

THANOM: WE MUST HOLD CONSULTATIONS FIRST IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHICH UNITS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FIRST AND WHICH LATER. MOST PROBABLY THE FIRST UNITS TO BE WITHDRAWN WILL BE THOSE THAT ARRIVED HERE AFTER AMERICAN TROOPS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM VIETNAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 13115 221202Z

REPORTER: WHEN DO YOU THINK THAT RESULTS WILL BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHEN THE FIRST WITHDRAWAL WILL BE?

THANOM: IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG. AFTER AGREEMENT IS REACHED THE FIRST WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE TOWARDS THE

END OF THIS MONTH OR EARLY NEXT MONTH?

THANOM: IT MIGHT BE WITHIN THIS MONTH.

REPORTER: ARE THE MILITARY UNITS WHICH CAME AND
ARE STATIONED IN NAKHON PHANOM CONSIDERED AS BEING
UNITS WHICH CAME HERE AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN
TROOPS FROM VIETNAM?

THANOM: YES, THEY ARE PART OF THE MILITARY UNITS WHICH CAME
HERE AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM VIETNAM.

REPORTER: THEN WILL THEY BE AMONG THE UNITS WHICH
WILL HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN FIRST?

THANOM: SOME OF THEM MIGHT BE. BUT SOME UNITS WERE STATIONED
THERE ORIGINALLY.

REPORTER: REGARDING THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN
THAILAND, ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY PRESENCE, SOME
PERSONS SAY THAT SHOULD THEY BE WITHDRAWN IN LARGE
NUMBERS IT MIGHT HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON OUR ECONOMY.
IN WHAT WAY WOULD REPERCUSSIONS BE CAUSED?

THANOM: WE HAVE MADE PREPARATIONS TO COPE WITH SUCH A
SITUATION ALREADY. REPERCUSSIONS WOULD BE CAUSED
BECAUSE WHEN AS MANY AS 45,000 MEN COME AND ARE STATIONED
HERE THEY SPEND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY IN OUR
COUNTRY. SHOULD THEY BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN AT ONCE,
THEN REPERCUSSIONS WOULD BE CAUSED BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT
THEY WILL MOST PROBABLY NOT BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN
FROM THE START, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY ARE STILL A
NECESSITY FOR THE SECURITY OF THIS REGION. FURTHERMORE,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BANGKO 13115 221202Z

WE HAVE SEATO ALSO FOR THE SECURITY OF THAILAND.
END EXCERPTS. UNGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO13115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730823/aaaaaqxr.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER THANOM ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005